

**Request for Proposal  
Natural Resource Damage Restoration Projects for  
Acquired Areas within Webb City**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

This Request for Proposal (RFP) is seeking applicants that have the capacity to restore natural resources injured by historical mining practices. Restoration project areas are located on or near mine-affected lands that have been subjected to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) clean-up. Through the remedial process, EPA has addressed the removal of certain mine waste materials and contaminants. However, in many cases the remediated lands do not provide the full range of natural resource benefits as do lands not impacted by mining activities. It is our intent to restore the quality of the lands by creating wildlife habitat on remediated areas that have been most damaged by mining activities, a process referred to as “primary restoration”. The first step in the primary restoration process was to award money for the acquisition of land. The municipality of Webb City was awarded these funds, and they are presently in the process of acquiring land for restoration. The second step, addressed by this RFP, is to restore portions of the land purchased or owned by Webb City for use as wildlife habitat.

**A. Natural Resource Injury**

The Natural Resource Trustee Council (Trustees) has identified an extensive array of natural resource injuries due to the releases of hazardous substances from ASARCO’s mining activities throughout the 1900s. Terrestrial resources (e.g. soil and migratory bird habitat) are injured due to toxic concentrations of lead, zinc, and cadmium in abandoned mine/mill waste. Aquatic resources (e.g. waterfowl, mussels, riffle fish, crayfish, and other invertebrates) are injured due to releases of heavy-metal contaminated water and sediment to area streams. Groundwater is contaminated with heavy metals due to mining activities, and has potentially impacted the federally threatened Ozark cavefish. Our priority with this RFP is to ameliorate the impacts of mining upon terrestrial and riparian habitats. The restoration of other injured resources such as larger streams, rivers, and groundwater will be addressed in future RFPs.

This RFP is an action that has been previously described as part of the Springfield Plateau Regional Restoration Plan (SPRRP), which fulfills the requirement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 to provide public review and comment on federal actions that affect environmental resources. The development of the SPRRP was a coordinated effort among state and federal natural resource Trustees, governmental entities, and the public. The SPRRP was developed as an ecoregion-comprehensive plan to guide the Trustees in restoring natural resources injured by the release of hazardous substances, and is jointly administered by the Trustees to assist in carrying out their natural resource trust mandates under CERCLA and the Clean Water Act.

**B. Natural Resource Damages**

The securing of Natural Resource Damage (NRD) funds is a means of compensating the public for resources injured by a release of a hazardous substance, and this is the responsibility of the Trustees. The Trustees consist of the State of Missouri, represented by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, and the United States Department of the Interior, represented by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In this case, damages were calculated by estimating the area impacted by ASARCO's operations, and restoration funds were obtained through a legal settlement with ASARCO. A portion of the funds acquired by the Trustees are dedicated to acquiring and restoring lands directly impacted by mine waste, above and beyond remedial clean-up actions conducted by EPA.

**C. Funds Available**

The amount of \$1,000,000 is available for the restoration of remediated upland and riparian areas. This amount represents the total amount available for all projects related to this RFP. Multiple awards may be made.

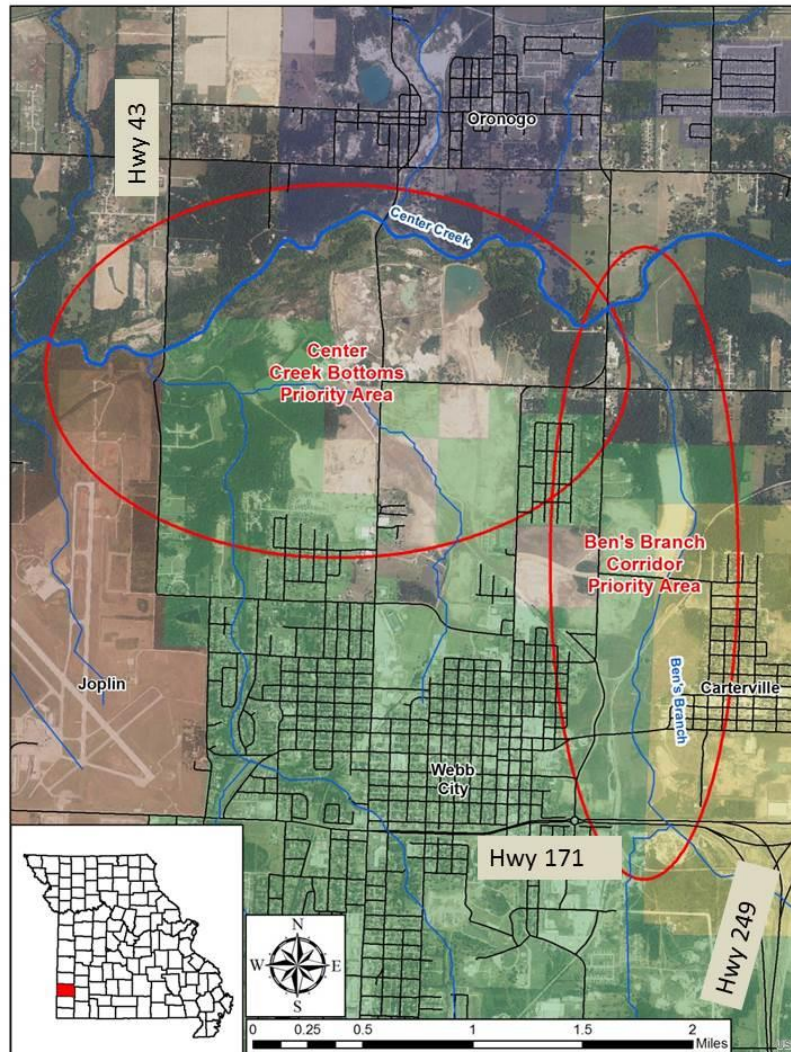
**D. Geographic Priority Areas for Restoration**

The Trustees have prioritized EPA remedial clean-up areas for primary restoration within Jasper County. The acquisition of land for restoration is ongoing by Webb City. These targeted lands are the only areas eligible for restoration through this RFP. All areas to be acquired will be in the general vicinity of the Center Creek bottoms and Ben's Branch area, see Figure 1 for a map of the priority areas.

**E. Restoration Activities**

It is the intent of the Trustees to award funds to an entity or entities whose proposal can best restore native terrestrial habitat and riparian corridors on and near Jasper County remedial sites. These restored sites must be monitored and maintained for the period of performance of the contract (typically five years). After a parcel of land has been acquired and/or protected by Webb City, a restoration plan will be written by the Trustees with input from Webb City. This land may already have a suitable cap or native soil that generally has less than 1000ppm zinc, in which case normal upland restoration would occur (see subsection below). Other areas may contain or be very close to a stream, and special management of these riparian areas would be most appropriate (see subsections that follow). Since acquisition of lands is ongoing, an exact acreage for lands to be restored will not be known during the application period. Thus, applicants should figure costs on a per-acre basis. The total areas needing restoration are not likely to exceed 500 acres and will not be less than 100 acres.

**Figure 1. Geographic Priority Area for Restoration**



**1. Upland areas with <1000ppm Zn contamination**

Site-specific management plans may require different activities. This subsection describes the default restoration activities that will generally take place in upland settings. Areas must first be scouted for invasive weeds and those weeds must be treated through herbicide spraying or cultural practices. Many areas have grown up into scrubby brush and small tree thickets, which are undesirable for prairie settings, and should be removed initially through brush-hogging or other means. Seeding of native prairie vegetation should begin as soon as practicable, often this will mean initially using a smaller subset of species that can persist while invasive weed treatment is ongoing (e.g. seeding forbs while spraying an herbicide specific to an invasive grass). Ideally, seeding will occur in late fall, and seed will be drilled or broadcast after light

disking. The seed mix for an area will be specified by the Trustees, but will generally consist of five pounds of grasses and sedges, and five pounds of forbs, per acre. All seed should be of local ecotype, no greater than 200 miles from Webb City. Depending on timing, a cover crop/smother crop may need to be seeded to prevent weed colonization prior to the seeding of natives. The first year after the seeding of natives, follow-up mowing at around six inches will need to occur when weeds reach 12-18 inches in height, typically three to four times to reduce the growth of weedy competition. During the second year, mowing may be needed two to three times at 12 inches. Spot spraying may be needed to prevent infestation of invasive weeds. After the second year, burning or haying (or grazing) may be implemented to maintain the integrity of the prairie.

## 2. Riparian Areas

Areas containing streams or within 50 feet of the stream bank should be managed as riparian areas. Historically, the areas north of Hawthorne Road were more wooded (near Center Creek), while the areas south of Hawthorne Road (near Ben's Branch) were predominantly prairie. Site-specific management plans may require different activities; this subsection describes the default restoration activities that will generally take place. Areas must first be scouted for invasive weeds and those weeds must be treated through herbicide spraying (appropriate for areas near waterbodies) or cultural practices.

For historically wooded areas, seeding will occur in late fall, and seed will be drilled or broadcast after mowing existing vegetation. The seed mix for an area will be specified by the Trustees, but will generally consist of three pounds of grasses and sedges, and three pounds of forbs per acre, plus one year old whip trees. All seed should be of local ecotype, no greater than 200 miles from Webb City. Depending on timing, a cover crop/smother crop may need to be seeded to prevent weed colonization prior to the seeding of natives. Whip trees and/or willow/cottonwood stakes should be planted on 10 foot centers on areas within 50 feet of the stream bank in the early spring (while dormant) following the seeding.

For areas that were historically prairie, seeding of native prairie vegetation should begin as soon as practicable, often this will mean initially using a smaller subset of species that can persist while invasive weed treatment is ongoing (e.g. seeding forbs while spraying an herbicide specific to grass). Ideally, seeding will occur in late fall, and seed will be drilled or broadcast after light disking or mowing. The seed mix for an area will be specified by the Trustees, but will generally consist of five pounds of grasses and sedges, and five pounds of forbs per acre, plus some woody plants along the banks. Willow stakes and shrubs can be planted on the stream banks on 10 foot centers. All seed should be of local ecotype, no greater than 200 miles from Webb City. Depending on timing, a cover crop/smother crop may need to be seeded to prevent weed colonization prior to the seeding of natives. The first year after the seeding of natives, follow-up mowing at around 6 inches will need to occur when weeds reach 12-18 inches in height, typically three to four times to reduce the growth of weedy competition. During the second year, mowing may be needed two to three times at 12 inches. Spot spraying of appropriate herbicide may be needed to prevent infestation of invasive weeds. After the second year, burning or haying may be implemented to maintain the integrity of the wet prairie.

### 3. Monitoring

All areas to be restored must be quantitatively monitored initially and throughout the restoration phase to gauge the success of the project and inform future restoration actions. Site-specific management plans may require different monitoring activities; this subsection describes the default monitoring that will generally take place. Floristic quality assessments will be used to measure vegetation success. Species diversity and mean coefficient of conservatism (using species values reported in Kindcher et al 2009<sup>1</sup> (for the Tri-State area) will be calculated for the areas once in the late summer. Percent cover will also be monitored. Approximately 20 quadrats of one square foot will be randomly placed throughout the site for vegetative monitoring. The sites will be permanently marked (GPS and flagging) and re-used from year to year. Scouting for invasive weeds should occur at least twice during each growing season, and maps made of problem areas via GPS technology.

Other biological monitoring may also be appropriate including insect population monitoring, especially bees or other pollinators. Bird monitoring may also be desirable, but may be undertaken, in part, by the Trustees.

## **II. PROPOSAL SPECIFICATIONS**

In order to be acceptable, all NRD restoration projects proposed by funded entities must be 1) compliant and consistent with federal and state laws, 2) technically feasible, and 3) address injured natural resources. Projects funds cannot be used for EPA response actions, nor can they be proposed by parties responsible for NRD injury. Proposals will include:

- Name of group submitting proposal- Name of the group or individuals submitting the restoration project proposal. Include name of project coordinator, address, telephone and facsimile number and e-mail address.
- Amount of request and budget- Total amount of funding requested is not to exceed the total amount of funds available for this RFP (\$1,000,000). Provide an approximate budget for the funding requested in descriptive summary categories such as personnel, equipment costs, etc. Proposals stating only a total cost with no budget breakdown will not be considered. Since the total areal scope is not currently known, the proposal should provide unit costs where appropriate. Please include information pertaining to any types of cost sharing, such as other funding sources or in-kind services that will add to the value of the proposal.

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1. Kindscher, Kelly, Frank Norman, & Lynn Byczynski. 2009. Floristic Quality of Vegetation at Lead and Zinc Mined Lands in Cherokee County, Kansas. Kansas Biological Survey Report #149. Kansas Biological Survey.

- Timeline- Outline the estimated time and steps or phases needed to complete the restoration, monitoring, and maintenance.
- Descriptions of experience- Please describe your experience with mowing, herbicide spraying, plant identification, and other habitat restoration and resource monitoring skills. If applicable, please reference any past restoration or monitoring work examples.
- Equipment- Please list any existing equipment that may be used, and any equipment that may be purchased with these funds.
- Description of staff resources and hourly/salary rate- Please provide details on the amount of staff that can work on projects, how they would work on projects, and the portion/amount of their hourly wage that would be covered by these NRDAR funds.

### **III. PROPOSAL EVALUATION AND PROCEDURES**

Proposals will be evaluated by a state and federal technical committee. The technical committees may include members with technical expertise (e.g., Missouri Department of Conservation) critical to evaluation of this RFP in addition to the Trustees. Upon completion of the scoring, the committee may recommend a single proposal for funding, or recommend short listing the proposals that are potentially acceptable to the Trustee Council. At this point, the Trustee Council may request more information of the applicants, and carry out negotiations for the purpose of obtaining best and final offers on the short listed applicants. The Trustee Council will make the final selection for funding.

The Trustees reserve the right to withdraw this RFP at any time and for any reason and to issue such clarifications, modifications, and/or amendments as they may deem appropriate. Any additional information will be posted on the Trustee websites, and it will be the responsibility of the applicants to check for updates. These websites are:

<http://dnr.mo.gov/env/hwp/sfund/nrda.htm> and  
<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/es/ec/nrda/MoTriState/index.html>

### **IV. PROPOSAL SCHEDULE**

Proposals will be due at 5 p.m. CST May 15, 2015. The Trustees may extend this due date, if insufficient proposals are received or other circumstances arise that warrant granting more time.

The Trustees will request additional information as necessary from proposal applicants within 30 days after the proposal due date. The Trustees will provide written notification of selection within 60 days after the deadline for proposal submission.

## **V. OTHER LEGAL CONTRACTING REQUIREMENTS**

Successful applicants will enter into a contractual agreement with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Additional contracting requirements may be applicable for successful projects. For example, professional services or certain construction activities may require proof of Errors and Omissions Insurance and securing of a Payment and Performance Bond. Successful applicants will be notified of contracting and cooperative agreement needs upon selection of proposals. Final approval of a project will occur at the completion of any necessary contracts or formalization of cooperative agreements.

## **VI. CONTACTS**

RFP submittals should be submitted electronically (preferred) to: [Scott\\_Hamilton@fws.gov](mailto:Scott_Hamilton@fws.gov) or [Tim.Rielly@dnr.mo.gov](mailto:Tim.Rielly@dnr.mo.gov), or mailed to:

Mr. Scott Hamilton  
Missouri Ecological Services Field Office  
101 Park DeVille Dr., Suite A  
Columbia, MO 65203

Or to:

Mr. Tim Rielly  
Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
PO Box 176  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

If you have questions pertaining to this RFP, please contact Mr. Hamilton by email or by phone at (573) 234-2132 ext-122.